

REMARKS

Claims 14-16 and 30-33 have been amended. Claims 1-13, 18, 20-29, 34, and 36-45 have been canceled. Claims 14-17, 19, 30-33, and 35 are pending.

Disclaimers Relating to Claim Interpretation and Prosecution History Estoppel

Claims have been amended, and claims have been canceled, notwithstanding the belief that these claims were allowable. Except as specifically admitted below, no claim elements have been narrowed. Rather, cosmetic amendments have been made to the claims and to broaden them in view of the cited art. Claims 14-16 and 30-33 have been amended solely for the purpose of expediting the patent application process, and the amendments were not necessary for patentability.

Any reference herein to “the invention” is intended to refer to the specific claim or claims being addressed herein. The claims of this application are intended to stand on their own and are not to be read in light of the prosecution history of any related or unrelated patent or patent application. Furthermore, no arguments in any prosecution history relate to any claim in this application, except for arguments specifically directed to the claim.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner objected to claims 14-17, 19, 30-33, and 35 are being dependent upon rejected base claims but allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 14 has been rewritten in independent form including the limitations of claims 1, 11, and 13.

Claim 15 has been rewritten in independent form including the limitations of claims 1, 11, and 13.

Claim 16 has been rewritten in independent form including the limitations of claims 1, 11, and 12.

Claim 30 has been rewritten in independent form including the limitations of claims 21, 25, and 28.

Claim 31 has been rewritten in independent form including the limitations of claims 21, and 29.

Claim 32 has been rewritten in independent form including the limitations of claims 21, 25, and 28.

Claim 33 has been rewritten in independent form including the limitations of claims 21, 25, and 28.

It is respectfully submitted that independent claims 14-16 and 30-33 are allowable, as are depending claims 17, 19, and 35. Withdrawal of the objection is solicited.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The Examiner rejected claims 1-13, 18, 20-29, 34, and 36-45 under 35 USC § 103 as obvious from Duffie et al. (USP 6,594,343) in view of Chong (US 6,434,221) and other references. The rejected claims have been canceled without prejudice.

Conclusion

It is submitted, however, that the independent and dependent claims include other significant and substantial recitations which are not disclosed in the cited references. Thus, the claims are also patentable for additional reasons. However, for economy the additional grounds for patentability are not set forth here.

In view of all of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and reexamination are respectfully requested and allowance at an early date is solicited.

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned registered practitioner to answer any questions or to discuss steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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